New International Airport in Navi Mumbai

483. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its approval to construct, new international airport at Panvel, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The techno-economic feasibility report prepared by the City and Industrial Development Corporation [CIDCO] of Maharashtra for construction of a second international airport at Navi Mumbai is under examination.

Indian flights to Kabul

484. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to operate Indian flights to Kabul;

(b) whether it will be viable to fly through other countries in view of the Pakistani ban on Indian flights flying in its air-space; and

(c) if so, the alternative plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In view of closure of Pakistani Air Space for Indian carriers and the financial viability of the operations on alternative route, Indian Airlines does not have any immediate plans to introduce flights to Kabul. However Ariana Afghan Airlines, the designated airline of Afghanistan and Mahan Air, one of the designated airlines of Iran have been permitted to operate flights from/through Kabul to India.

Security Network at Airports

485. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the porous security network at the airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Adequate security measures are in force at the airports

in the country in accordance with the guidelines issued by International Civil Aviation Organization and on the basis of National Aviation Security Programme. The following measures have been taken, *inter alia*, to strengthen security at the airports in order to prevent hijackings and other unlawful interference with civil aviation opertions:

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force at all operational airports in a time-bound manner;

(ii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports;

(iii) Ladder-point security check of passengers and their hand-baggage made mandatory;

(iv) Strengthening of perimeter security;

(v) Stricter access control; and

(vi) Deployment of Sky Marshals on all routes of our scheduled airlines at random basis.

New Policy for FDI

486. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to announce a new policy to ramp up the value of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the new policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) whether the new policy would adequately address the problems and difficulties faced by the foreign Government and act as a facilitator of foreign investment and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Foreign Direct Investment Policy is being reviewed on a continuous basis to make it more investor friendly. This is an ongoing process.

(d) The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority acts as the single point interface between foreign investors and various authorities/agencies to facilitate speedy implementation of projects with foreign investment.